

IDAHO INTERAGENCY COORDINATION GUIDE

*Working with Communities and Private Landowners
Before, During, and After Wildfires*



For current information or updates to this guide, visit the
Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group website at:
www.idahofireplan.org



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PURPOSE AND NEED

This guide is intended to help government agencies and non-governmental organizations better coordinate their efforts to assist communities and private landowners before, during, and after wildfires. We hope you will find the guide useful, and that it will serve as a catalyst to increase coordination between your agency or organization and the other agencies, organizations, and community partners you work with.

The increasing frequency, severity, and costs of wildfires have created an urgent need to reduce the vulnerability of communities and private landowners to wildfire. The number of people, structures, and businesses at risk continues to rise because of continuing development in the wildland-urban interface, raising the likelihood that more Idaho communities will face the tremendous social, economic, and ecological costs of catastrophic wildfires. Many federal, state, and local agencies, governments, and organizations are working hard to reduce the vulnerability of communities to wildfire, but the magnitude of the problem, in terms of numbers of communities at risk and acres of unhealthy forests, far exceeds current efforts and resources.

Major federal wildfire policies recognize the need for collaboration and coordination as means to help achieve wildfire protection goals, and many state, local, and tribal governments are also seeking to increase cooperative efforts. The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act both emphasize coordination as a means to achieve protection of communities and other priority watersheds. Increased coordination can help direct limited resources to where they are most needed, when they are needed, and systematically build community capacity while improving the combined efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies and organizations that provide assistance.

BENEFITS OF COORDINATION

- Helps solve problems that no one agency, organization, or individual can solve alone
- Promotes shared ownership of problems and solutions
- Enables action across land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries
- Builds mutual understanding and productive working relationships
- Generates better informed and more broadly supported decisions
- Encourages sharing of information and resources
- Avoids wasteful duplication of efforts



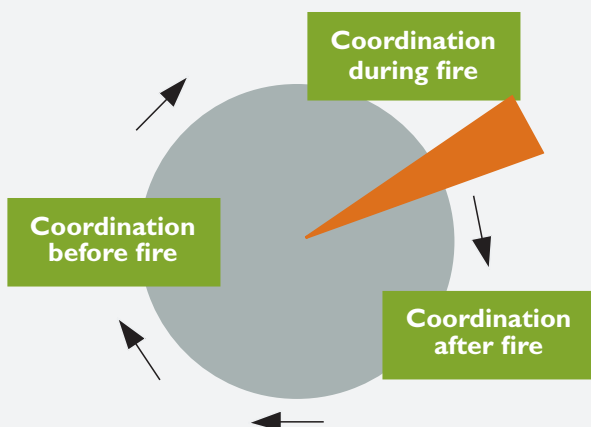
Coordination is particularly important as agencies and communities work across land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries to plan for wildfire protection, to reduce fuel hazards in the wildland-urban interface, and to implement recovery and restoration projects after a wildfire. Many of the agencies currently involved in assisting communities with wildfire protection have long coordinated efforts for wildfire suppression, but coordinated efforts for wildfire protection planning, hazard mitigation, and post-fire recovery and restoration are more recent and less well developed. This guide is intended to help support efforts to increase coordination.

One of the first steps in improving coordination is to increase awareness among agencies and their community partners of each other's roles, services, and programs, and of tools that can facilitate coordination. Sections III through V of this guide describe in brief the programs and services of relevant agencies and organizations. These tools include examples of formal agreements such as MOUs and mutual aid agreements; County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans (also known as Community Wildfire Protection Plans) and planning guidelines; guiding principles that can help agencies and their community partners establish and sustain a collaborative process; a listing and description of assistance programs by agency; and links to websites with a variety of informational resources. This guide offers just a brief summary of the many tools and resources available; we encourage you to contact agencies and organizations and explore websites for more detailed information about programs and services.

Examples of successful coordination are highlighted in this guide. These include development of interagency MOUs, development of community wildfire protection plans, and coordination of restoration and recovery activities following major wildfires. While there are many examples of successful coordination, much more could be done. Examples of coordination and collaboration may be found at the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group website www.idahofireplan.org.

We hope you will share your success stories and any comments on this guide with us. You can send success stories and comments to the Idaho Department of Lands at sschedler@idl.idaho.gov or to Boise State University at bingles@boisestate.edu.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN...



Strong working relationships built during one phase of the cycle provide a foundation for continued coordination and cooperation during other phases of the cycle.



Close coordination among local, state, and federal agencies is essential to emergency response efforts during wildfire events, as well as to recovery work after the fires. A recent example of close coordination in Idaho was seen during and after the Long Ruggles and Blackerby fires near Grangeville in Idaho County. The smoke had hardly cleared when natural resource management agencies (which included Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Services, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council), as well as Grangeville Highway District, Idaho County Commissioners, and private landowners came together for a meeting in Grangeville. The purpose for this public workshop was to assist private landowners affected by the two large wildfires with recovery on their burned-over lands. Resource specialists discussed what to expect after the fire. Erosion problems, insect or disease increases, vegetation reestablishment, road maintenance, and fence repairs were just a few of the concerns addressed. The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Teams from both fires explained the scope of their findings on post-fire conditions. Hazardous fuel treatment techniques were addressed, and all available cost-share assistance programs were reviewed. The rapid, responsive effort was greatly appreciated by the area landowners and was extremely important to the success of the rehabilitation of the federal, state, and private lands that were touched by these large wildfire events.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO SERVICES

| AGENCY | PAGE | BEFORE FIRE | DURING FIRE | AFTER FIRE |
|--|------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Bureau of Indian Affairs | 7 | 1, 2, 5 | 7 | 8 |
| Bureau of Land Management | 8 | 1, 2, 4, 5 | 4, 6, 7 | 1, 4, 8 |
| Farm Service Agency | 9 | | | 8 |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency | 10 | 1, 4, 5, 6 | 4, 6 | 4, 6, 8 |
| National Park Service | 12 | 4, 5 | 7 | 4 |
| National Weather Service | 13 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | 14 | | | 8 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | 15 | 1, 2, 4, 5 | 4, 7 | 4, 8 |
| U.S. Forest Service | 16 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 | 4, 6, 7 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 |
| U.S. Small Business Administration | 18 | 9 | | 8 |
| Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group | 20 | 4, 6, 9 | | 9 |
| ID Dept of Commerce & Labor | 21 | 3, 9 | 9 | 9 |
| ID Bureau of Homeland Security | 22 | 1, 2, 4, 6 | 6 | 4, 6, 8 |
| Idaho Department of Lands | 23 | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 | 4, 7 | 4, 8 |
| Idaho State Fire Marshal | 25 | 4, 9 | 4, 6 | 4, 9 |
| Idaho Fire Chiefs Association | 26 | 4, 5 | | |
| Soil & Water Conservation Districts | 27 | 9 | | 8 |
| County Disaster Services | 28 | 1, 2, 4, 6 | 4, 6 | 4, 8 |
| Coop. Weed Management Areas | 29 | 4, 9 | | 4, 8 |
| U of I Extension Service | 30 | 1, 2, 4, 9 | 9 | 4, 8 |
| Resource Conservation & Development Councils | 31 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 | | 4, 6, 8 |

Within the following categories, an agency or organization may provide technical assistance, financial assistance, or other services:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 - Hazard assessment/mitigation planning | 6 - Coordination |
| 2 - Fuels treatment and defensible space work | 7 - Suppression |
| 3 - Wildfire-related business development | 8 - Recovery and restoration |
| 4 - Public education | 9 - Other |
| 5 - Firefighting capacity building | |

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Tribal governments and their members | | |

The BIA is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and receives funding under the National Fire Plan (NFP) for projects in support of the NFP on tribal reservations as well as Indian Trust Lands throughout the state. The BIA uses NFP funding to assist tribes with hazardous fuels treatment work. The BIA secures funding for and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams following wildfires.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Forestry on Indian Lands – financial and technical assistance for forest management activities

Indian Community Fire Protection – financial assistance for fire protection services

BIA is also a participating agency in the **Rural Fire Assistance Program** (see page 19).



CONTACT INFORMATION for individual tribes can be found below. The BIA's Northwest Regional Office is located in Portland: (503) 231-6702.



WEBSITES

BIA Fire and Aviation Management: www.bianifc.org
 Nez Perce Tribe: www.nezperce.org
 Coeur d'Alene Tribe: www.cdatribe-nsn.gov
 Sho-Ban Tribe (Fort Hall): www.lemhi-shoshone.com
 Sho-Pai Tribe (Duck Valley): (702) 757-3161 (no website)
 Kootenai Tribe of Idaho: www.kootenai.org

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management administers 261 million acres of America’s public lands; its mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of these lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | State, local, and tribal governments, non-profits, rural fire departents | | |

The BLM is one of five federal land-management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

National Fire Plan Community Assistance Program – provides financial and technical assistance for risk assessment and mitigation planning, defensible space projects, and prevention and education programs, with a priority on activities that complement efforts on nearby BLM lands. BLM’s staff includes Mitigation and Education Specialists who administer the program. BLM currently requires that an approved countywide Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan be in place before funds are awarded for defensible space or prevention and education projects. BLM is also a participating agency in the **Rural Fire Assistance Program** (see page 19).



CONTACT INFORMATION for BLM Mitigation and Education Specialists can be found at the Idaho BLM website. The BLM’s Idaho State Office is located in Boise: (208) 373-4000.



WEBSITES
BLM: www.blm.gov
Idaho BLM: www.id.blm.gov
BLM Fire and Aviation: www.fire.blm.gov

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency's mission includes stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Agricultural producers | | |

Farm Service Agency offices are located in most counties in Idaho at USDA Service Centers. Funding from FSA for fire restoration activities is only available pursuant to a federally declared disaster.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Emergency Conservation Program – provides emergency financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters

Emergency Loan Program – provides emergency loans to help agricultural producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters

Livestock Indemnity Program – provides partial reimbursement for livestock losses resulting from a natural disaster



CONTACT INFORMATION for FSA offices may be found at the website for USDA Service Centers. The Idaho FSA State Office is located in Boise (208) 378-5650.



WEBSITES

FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov

Idaho FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov/id

USDA Service Center locator:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s mission is to lead America to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | State, local, and tribal governments, certain non-profits, fire departments | | |

FEMA leads the effort to prepare the U.S. for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with the U.S. Fire Administration, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA often works in partnership with other agencies and organizations that are part of the nation’s emergency management system, including state and local emergency management agencies, other federal agencies, and the American Red Cross. FEMA’s programs provide assistance in areas including multi-hazard mitigation planning, implementation of hazard mitigation projects, and training and capacity building for state and rural firefighting programs.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Assistance to Firefighters Grants – provide assistance to states and fire departments to enhance firefighting capacity, including fire prevention.



CONTACT INFORMATION for FEMA personnel can be obtained from the FEMA website. FEMA Region 10 headquarters are located in Bothell, WA (425) 487-4689.



WEBSITES
FEMA: www.fema.gov
FEMA Region 10: www.fema.gov/regions/x/

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Fire Management Assistance Grants – provide assistance to state, local and tribal governments for fighting fires on non-federal property that threaten destruction that would constitute a major disaster

Hazard Mitigation Grants – provide assistance to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures.

Individual Assistance – FEMA provides several forms of assistance that can help individuals and households following a presidentially-declared disaster

National Fire Academy Educational Programs – provide training to fire department members and others with firefighting responsibilities

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grants – provide assistance for mitigation planning and implementation of hazard mitigation activities (also known as “All Hazard” Plan grants)

Public Assistance – provides aid to repair, replace, or supplement parts of a community’s infrastructure following a presidentially-declared disaster

Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property – reimburse fire departments for fighting fire on federal property

State Fire Training Systems Grants – provide assistance for delivery of National Fire Academy courses and programs

OTHER RESOURCES

FEMA’s website contains a wealth of informational resources and links to additional resources on disaster preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery, including fact sheets on hazards, best practices and case studies, hazard mitigation success stories, interagency activities, and educational and training opportunities. FEMA recently published *At Home in the Woods: Lessons Learned in the Wildland Urban Interface*, available at the national FEMA website.



Several pieces of federal legislation require or encourage state and/or local governments to prepare hazard mitigation plans. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state, local, and tribal governments to prepare Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) plans to be eligible for certain forms of disaster funding. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 encourages communities to prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) to take full advantage of collaborative opportunities with federal agencies. CWPPs are key to achieving the goals of the National Fire Plan (NFP). To facilitate the inclusion of NFP documents in PDM plans, the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group developed planning guidelines that are consistent with FEMA’s PDM planning guidelines, and is working with communities to develop wildfire hazard mitigation plans at the county level.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Communities adjacent to lands managed by the National Park Service | | |

The NPS is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and cooperates with the other federal agencies and the Idaho Department of Lands in wildfire protection and suppression.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

National Fire Plan Community Assistance Program – Limited prescribed burning/hazardous fuels reduction assistance for private landowners may be available when the private lands are adjacent to NPS lands.

The National Park Service is also a participating agency in the **Rural Fire Assistance Program**, which helps to build the capacity of rural and volunteer fire departments through financial assistance (see page 19).



CONTACT INFORMATION for specific National Park Service units can be found at their respective websites. The NPS’s Pacific West Regional Office is located in Oakland (510) 817-1371.



WEBSITES
National Park Service: www.nps.gov
NPS Fire Management: data2.itc.nps.gov/fire/index.cfm
Craters of the Moon: www.nps.gov/crmo
Yellowstone National Park: www.nps.gov/yel

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | All entities involved in wildfire protection, suppression, and recovery | | |

The NWS's forecasts, warnings, and watches provide weather information before, during, and after wildfires. During fires, NWS Incident Meteorologists travel to fire sites when requested by the fire-management team and provide weather information essential to the firefighting effort. The NWS coordinates closely with other agencies such as the USFS and USGS during recovery efforts to help forecast flash flood and debris flow events, and with local law enforcement offices to help provide emergency notification to landowners in areas threatened by flash flooding or debris flows.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The National Weather Service operates two forecast offices in Idaho; in Boise (www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi, 208-334-9860), and Pocatello (www.wrh.noaa.gov/pih, 208-233-0834). The central and northern portions of the state are monitored by the Missoula (www.wrh.noaa.gov/mso, 406-329-4840) and Spokane (www.wrh.noaa.gov/otx, 509-244-0110) forecast offices respectively.



WEBSITES

NWS: www.nws.noaa.gov

NWS Western Regional HQ: www.wrh.noaa.gov/index.html

NWS National Fire Weather: fire.boi.noaa.gov

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Communities, private landowners, agricultural producers | | |

NRCS offices are located within 37 USDA Service Centers throughout Idaho. Contact your local District Conservationist for more information about particular programs.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Emergency Watershed Program – provides financial and technical assistance to implement emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster

Environmental Quality Incentives Program – provides assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns; in Idaho, a special share of EQIP funding can be used for post-fire restoration work.



CONTACT INFORMATION for NRCS offices can be found at the website for USDA Service Centers. The NRCS Idaho State Office is located in Boise (208) 378-5700.



WEBSITES

NRCS: www.nrcs.usda.gov
Idaho NRCS: www.id.nrcs.usda.gov
USDA Service Centers: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov>

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Private landowners | | |

The FWS is one of five federal land management agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and cooperates with the other federal agencies and the Idaho Department of Lands in wildfire protection and suppression.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

National Fire Plan Community Assistance Program – Limited prescribed burning assistance for private landowners may be available when private lands are adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge and burning those lands is beneficial to the refuge. The FWS can also provide technical and financial assistance for restoration and rehabilitation work following a wildfire. The FWS is a participating agency in the **Rural Fire Assistance Program** (see page 19).

CONTACT INFORMATION: Information regarding National Wildlife Refuges in Idaho can be found at the FWS Pacific Region website. The FWS Zone Fire Management Officer (FMO) for northern Idaho is located in Colville, WA (509) 684-8384. The Zone FMO for southern Idaho is located in Pocatello (208) 237-6616.



WEBSITES

FWS: www.fws.gov

FWS Fire Management: <http://fire.fws.gov>

FWS Pacific Region (includes Idaho): www.fws.gov/pacific

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance, equipment | | |
| Who Can We Help? | State, local, and tribal governments, non-profits, rural and local fire departments | | |

Idaho’s eight National Forests are managed by two different regions of the Forest Service: the Northern Region (Region 1) and the Intermountain Region (Region 4). The USFS is one of five federal agencies with wildland firefighting responsibilities, and assists with establishing Fire Recovery Teams and Fire Recovery Assistance Centers. The USFS’s State and Private Forestry Program in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Land offers a variety of assistance programs in areas including community planning for fire protection, hazardous fuels treatments, assistance to state and volunteer firefighting organizations, public education, economic action programs, forest health management, noxious weed treatment, and multi-resource stewardship.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Community Planning for Fire Protection – provides funding for development and revision of communities’ strategic, action, and fire risk management plans.



CONTACT INFORMATION for personnel in the USFS’s Northern and Intermountain Regions can be found at their respective websites. The Northern Regional Office is located in Missoula, MT (406) 329-3511 and the Intermountain Regional Office is located in Ogden, UT (801) 625-5306.



WEBSITES
USFS Northern Region: www.fs.fed.us/r1
USFS Intermountain Region: www.fs.fed.us/r4

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management – provides funding to state forestry agencies to assist in identifying and treating forest health problems

Economic Action Program – provides technical and financial assistance for long-term economic and social health of rural areas; interests include helping communities develop and expand markets for wood products resulting from hazardous fuel removal

Federal Excess Personal Property Program – assists state and local governments by providing loans of equipment, vehicles, and supplies

Forest Stewardship Program – assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for preparation of forest management plans on state, private, and tribal lands

Hazardous Fuels Reduction – assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface

Noxious Weed Treatment – provides funds through the state Department of Agriculture to treat noxious weeds on private, state, and tribal lands affected by wildfire

Rural Community Assistance – assists communities that have been affected economically due to the loss of jobs or income derived from forestry, forest-related industry, or dependence on National Forest or Grasslands resources

State Fire Assistance – assists state forestry agencies by providing funding for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education programs; funds the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants Program

Volunteer Fire Assistance – assists state forestry agencies by providing financial and technical assistance, training, and equipment to help build rural fire department capacity

*Many Forest Service programs are administered
in conjunction with state and local agencies.*

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S.Small Business Administration’s mission is to maintain and strengthen the nation’s economy by aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Small businesses, homeowners, renters | | |

The SBA provides assistance to small businesses through a number of District Offices. Additionally, the agency maintains Disaster Area Offices in order to to provide assistance to small businesses affected by federally declared disasters.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Loan Program – offers loans to eligible small businesses to implement mitigation measures to protect business property from damage that may be caused by future disasters

Several of the SBA’s assistance programs offer loans to eligible applicants following a declared disaster:

- **Physical Disaster Business Loans**
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans**
- **Home and Personal Property Disaster Loans**



CONTACT INFORMATION for the SBA can be found at the SBA website. Idaho’s only SBA District Office is located in Boise (208) 334-1696. SBA’s Disaster Area 4 is located in Sacramento (800) 488-5323.



WEBSITES

SBA: www.sba.gov
SBA Disaster Area 4: <http://www.sba.gov/disasterarea4/>

MULTIAGENCY AND INTERAGENCY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Firewise – Firewise offers a variety of educational resources to communities, landowners, firefighters, and educators. Firewise’s goal is to help communities and landowners become “fire wise” – aware of the role that fire plays in ecosystems, and better able to coexist with wildfire. Firewise emphasizes investment in wildfire protection, the creation of defensible space around homes and other structures, and treatment of hazardous fuels.

Rural Fire Assistance Program – Provides funding to enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work; offered by the Department of the Interior land management agencies (BIA, BLM, NPS, and FWS).

Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams – Provide assistance to local fire organizations before or during periods of high fire danger or activity. Teams reinforce local resources and bring special prevention/education, planning, logistics, and operationsexpertise to bear in larger, complex severity situations that exceed the capabilities of local organizations.



The **Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group** was formed in 2002 to provide leadership and collaboration for fire hazard mitigation issues throughout Idaho. The ISFPWG assists counties in the implementation of their County Wildfire Protection Plans, prioritizes grant funding requests, and helps to set policy for the implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho. Members include representatives from local, state, federal, and nonprofit organizations. .



CONTACT INFORMATION: Information about Firewise programs in Idaho is available from the BLM (208) 373-3854. The BLM Rural Fire Assistance Program is managed by the BLM Idaho office in Boise (208) 373-3869. RFA contacts for all agencies are available at www.nifc.gov/rfa/contacts.html.



WEBSITES

Firewise: www.firewise.org

Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Teams:

www.firepreventionteams.us/team.html

ISFPWG: www.idahofireplan.org

IDAHO STATE FIRE PLAN WORKING GROUP

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG) is a partnership between state and federal agencies, Idaho’s counties, and other organizations dedicated to the Implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Prioritization of assistance funding, policy implementation, multi-agency coordination | | |
| Who Can We Help? | County and local governments, fire/EMS agencies and districts | | |

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG) is a multi-agency collaborative body charged with assisting counties with their County Wildfire Mitigation Plans and their associated countywide working groups, dissemination of information, and oversight and prioritization of grant assistance programs in order to facilitate the implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The ISFPWG, prioritizes and manages the following grant programs through the Idaho Department of Lands (see the IDL page for more information): **State Fire Assistance** (Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant), **Community Fire Protection**, **Volunteer Fire Assistance**, and portions of the **USDA Economic Action Program** in conjunction with Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor.



CONTACT INFORMATION for the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group can be found at the following website. The ISFPWG’s National Fire Plan Coordinator for Idaho is located in Coeur d’Alene (208) 666-8646.



WEBSITE
<http://www.idahofireplan.org/>

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

The primary purpose of the Department of Commerce and Labor is to develop and maintain a high quality workforce system for the state of Idaho.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Employment and referral services, job training programs | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Employers and job seekers | | |

The Department of Commerce and Labor maintains 24 Job Service Centers throughout the state. In addition to the myriad services that IDOC&L offers to employers and job seekers, the agency also offers assistance to individuals whose livelihoods have been affected by wildfire. Individuals may seek assistance from such programs as Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and the Dislocated Workers Program.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Idaho Community Development Block Grant Program: This grant program can be used for a number activities, some of which are related to wildfire, including the construction of fire stations and upgrading community water systems. A portion of the funds are reserved for addressing imminent threats which may include pre or post mitigation activities related to wildfire. Only incorporated communities with a population less than 50,000 and counties are eligible.



CONTACT INFORMATION for Job Service Centers can be found at the website below. The IDOC&L State Office is located in Boise (208) 334-2470.



WEBSITES

<http://cl.idaho.gov/portal/>

IDAHO BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security takes the lead in coordinating comprehensive emergency management in Idaho.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance, training, coordination among agencies and organizations | | |
| Who Can We Help? | State, local, and tribal governments | | |

The Bureau of Homeland Security is responsible for ensuring that a comprehensive emergency management program exists in Idaho. BHS offers assistance to improve planning and training for all hazard emergencies, assists local governments with response to emergencies and disasters, and aids communities in disaster recovery by coordinating volunteer, state and federal resources.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Hazard Mitigation Funds: The BHS, in conjunction with FEMA, provides assistance to county governments to write and implement Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans (“All Hazard Plans”). Communities are required to have a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (addressing such issues as wildfire, earthquakes, and floods) in order to receive certain types of grant funding following a natural disaster.



CONTACT INFORMATION for Idaho BHS personnel can be found at the Bureau’s website. The BHS Idaho State Office is located at the Gowen Field Army/Air National Guard Base in Boise (208) 422-3040.



WEBSITES
Idaho BHS: www.bhs.idaho.gov

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) protects six million acres of private, state, and federal forest lands in Idaho and provides technical assistance to local fire departments throughout the state.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance, seedlings for conservation projects and revegetation | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Communities, rural and volunteer fire departments, landowners | | |

The Idaho Department of Lands, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program, is the lead agency for implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho. IDL has wildland firefighting responsibilities for state endowment lands as well as certain federal lands within its protection area.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Community Planning for Fire Protection* – provides funding for development and revision of communities' strategic, action, and fire risk management plans

Cooperative Forestry Assistance* – assists in stewardship programs on non-federal lands



CONTACT INFORMATION for IDL Fire Management and Forestry Assistance Bureau personnel can be found at the Bureau's website. The Bureaus are located in Coeur d'Alene (208) 769-1525.



WEBSITES

IDL Fire Management Bureau:

<http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/firemgt.htm>

IDL Forestry Management Bureau:

<http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/formgt.htm>

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management* – provides funding to assist in identifying and treating forest health problems

Federal Excess Personal Property Program* – assists state and local governments by providing loans of equipment, vehicles, and supplies

Forest Stewardship Program* – provides funding for preparation of forest management plans on state, private, and tribal lands

Hazardous Fuels Reduction* – provides funding for fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface

Private Forestry Assistance Program** – provides on-site forest management assistance to private forest landowners

Community Fire Protection* (formerly Steven's Funds) – provides funding for hazardous fuels treatments on private land adjacent to federal land

State Fire Assistance* – provides funding for preparedness, high-priority prevention, and mitigation education programs; funds the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants Program

Volunteer Fire Assistance* – provides financial and technical assistance, training, and equipment to help build rural fire department capacity

OTHER RESOURCES

There are several nurseries throughout the state that produce tree and shrub seedlings for use in various conservation projects, including restoration after wildfires.

* Funding provided by U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry

** Supported by both state and federal funding

IDAHO STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The State Fire Marshal's Office is housed within the Idaho Department of Insurance and is tasked with protecting human life from fire and explosions through fire prevention and the investigation of fires.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Fire departments and fire districts, particularly those in lesser populated areas. | | |

The Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office provides assistance to fire departments through personnel located in different regions of the state who focus on fire investigation, fire prevention, and data acquisition. The Fire Marshal's Office is often a resource for smaller fire districts that have limited available manpower. The Office also maintains the Idaho Fire Incident Reporting System (IFIRS) which is used to report all fires and other emergency response incidents in the state.

Services provided to fire districts prior to fires include planning, reviews of existing practices, classes on fire code and fire investigation, fire safety, and issues regarding access to water supplies. After fires, the State Fire Marshal's Office can assist in fire origin and cause investigations including determining cases of arson.



CONTACT INFORMATION for the State Fire Marshal's office can be found at the following website. The State Fire Marshal resides in Boise (208) 334-4375.



WEBSITE

<http://www.doi.state.id.us/sfm/firemars.aspx>

IDAHO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

The Idaho Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) represents and promotes the interests of the leaders of fire-based emergency services in Idaho.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------|------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire | After fire |
| How Can We Help? | Fire prevention, public safety legislation, training, education | | |
| Who Can We Help | Fire chiefs, chief fire officers and fire/EMS agencies and districts | | |

The Idaho Fire Chiefs Association is comprised of Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and assorted associate members. It provides representation to fire and EMS agencies and districts of all sizes at the statewide level throughout Idaho. The IFCA includes specialty divisions focused on EMS, Fire Prevention, Training, and Volunteer fire departments and works closely with the Idaho Legislature to advocate for the interests of its members and all fire and EMS agencies and districts. The IFCA is also involved in grant writing and grant administration. It provides project management and coordination for the development of the Idaho Intrastate Mutual Aid Plan System.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Firefighters License Plate Grant Program – Provides grant funds for the education of firefighters, fire chiefs, and the public through the sale of a special Idaho “Fire Fighter License Plate”. Grants are awarded annually.



CONTACT INFORMATION for the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association can be found at the following website. The IFCA’s offices are located in Caldwell (208) 455-0344.



WEBSITE
<http://www.idahofirechiefs.org/>

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are units of local government which help citizens conserve soil, water, and other natural resources through locally-led and largely non-regulatory approaches.

| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire | After fire ✓ |
|-------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| How Can We Help? | Information, program sponsorship | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Private landowners, private corporations | | |

Although most of Idaho's 51 Soil Conservation Districts do not directly offer assistance related to wildfire protection or hazard mitigation, they do play an important role as cooperators in other agencies' programs and are sources of knowledge and understanding of local resources because of their work with landowners on conservation projects. The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission provides support to Idaho's Conservation Districts and oversees a number of assistance programs.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Loan Program

– Provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for resource management projects and improvements.

Conservation Improvement Grants – Provides financial assistance for the implementation of natural resource improvement projects related to water quality.

CONTACT INFORMATION for Idaho Soil Conservation Districts can be found at the Idaho Association of Soil Districts website. Additional information about assistance programs can be found at the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission website. The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission is headquartered in Boise (208) 332-8650.



WEBSITES

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts:
<http://www.iascd.state.id.us/>
 Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
<http://www.scc.state.id.us/>

COUNTY DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

County Departments of Disaster and Emergency Services prepare and manage plans and programs directed at disaster preparedness and coordination of response and recovery.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Communities, landowners, individuals | | |

County Disaster and Emergency Services offices’ activities include planning, training, coordination and public education. During wildfire incidents, county DES offices coordinate with and provide support to the firefighting and law enforcement services involved, and coordinate with Idaho BHS and FEMA as needed.

Many Idaho DES offices are currently preparing comprehensive pre-disaster mitigation plans (often referred to as “All Hazard” Plans). Because each county is different, how wildfire hazards are addressed in the plan, the extent to which any existing wildfire protection plans are incorporated, or whether wildfire is treated in a separate plan is likely to vary.



CONTACT INFORMATION for disaster service coordinators in all 44 of Idaho’s counties as well as Indian tribes can be found at the website below.



WEBSITES
Idaho County and Tribal Disaster Services Coordinators:
<http://www.idahofireplan.org/disasterservices/>
<http://www.scc.state.id.us/>

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS

County Weed Districts identify and address noxious weed problems, prepare county noxious weed management plans, and provide education, outreach, technical assistance, and sometimes financial assistance to help public and private landowners combat noxious weeds.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Information and technical assistance, financial assistance in some counties | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Landowners | | |

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are overseen by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The specific services and programs of County Weed Districts vary from county to county, but all are dedicated to combating noxious weeds. Weed Districts can provide technical and planning assistance to landowners, and some Weed Districts provide financial assistance through their own grant programs. CWMAs have also worked with landowner groups after wildfires, providing technical assistance, helping to prepare weed management, revegetation, and monitoring plans, and helping to secure and administer funding needed to implement plans.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

ISDA Cost Share Program – State funding program used to supplement efforts to combat noxious weed eradication efforts currently undertaken by CWMAs.



CONTACT INFORMATION for County Weed District Offices can be found at the Idaho Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Weed Management Areas website. The ISDA State Office is located in Boise (208) 332-8500.



WEBSITES

Idaho CWMAs by County:
www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/cwmas.php

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

University of Idaho Extension Service is dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities and agricultural enterprises.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire ✓ | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Education, technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Landowners, homeowners, agricultural producers | | |

The UI Cooperative Extension System offers educational resources and technical assistance for wildfire-affected communities via county extension offices and university faculty in areas including forestry, range, horticulture and financial planning. Located on the University of Idaho campus in Moscow, the forestry faculty and staff provide services including workshops and literature on forest planning, harvesting, pest management, wildfire hazard mitigation, burned area recovery assessment, and land restoration practices. Range and wildlife faculty provide services and publications on wildlife management, range restoration, species preferences and alternative livestock feeds following wildfires. County extension offices also provide educational resources and technical assistance, and some are responsible for managing county fairgrounds, which may be used for emergency purposes during wildfires.

CONTACT INFORMATION: A personnel directory for state and county office field staff is available at the UI Extension website. Extension Forestry, Range, and Wildlife personnel are listed in the state staff section.



WEBSITES

www.uidaho.edu/extension

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

RC&Ds are non-profit organizations governed by councils of local volunteers, and improve the ability of state and local units of government and local non-profits in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| When Can We Help? | Before fire ✓ | During fire | After fire ✓ |
| How Can We Help? | Financial and technical assistance | | |
| Who Can We Help? | Communities, agencies, non-profit organizations | | |

While each of Idaho’s nine RC&Ds carries out projects specific to its service area, all provide a framework within which local individuals, groups, businesses, and units of government work cooperatively. Idaho’s RC&Ds, in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service state and private forestry, have taken on many projects related to wildfire protection including coordinating the development of County Wildfire Protection Plans, hazardous fuels treatments, and pilot projects for biomass heating systems and small-diameter material utilization, and have helped communities to secure and administer the funding needed to carry out these projects. RC&Ds have also played critical roles in providing information to private landowners and coordinating restoration and recovery efforts on private lands after wildfires. The RC&Ds’ experience in resource conservation and development, together with the productive working relationships they have developed with many agencies and organizations enables them to provide the coordination critical to the success of many wildfire-related projects.



CONTACT INFORMATION for all of Idaho’s RC&Ds are available through the Idaho RC&D Association website.



WEBSITES
Idaho RC&D Association: www.idahorcd.org/IRCDA/state

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICES, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many local agencies and organizations offer assistance to communities and private landowners before, during, or after wildfires. The following list is not meant to be all inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for identifying additional agencies and organizations that have important roles to play and services to offer. Because each community's and county's situation is unique, the specific entities involved and the roles they play will vary from place to place – users of this guide should contact their local officials, organizations, and agencies for information specific to their area.

City and County Elected Officials: In some counties, commissioners have developed stricter regulations for defensible space in new subdivisions in the wildland-urban interface and have worked with fire departments on requirements for access in new subdivisions. During a wildfire, a local elected official such as a mayor can play a key role in communicating information from Incident Management Teams and other emergency personnel to the community. Following a wildfire, county governments can help secure emergency grants and other funding for restoration and recovery work.

Community Civic Groups: Community civic groups can play important roles in meeting emergency needs during a wildfire and in recovery efforts following wildfire. Community civic groups have coordinated with the local, state, and government agencies involved in wildfire response to help identify and meet needs not addressed by agency programs, and in some cases have formed new groups to help meet specific emergency needs. Local groups have the benefit of local knowledge and can often mobilize quickly to meet victims' needs, and have carried out tasks as diverse as moving livestock to safe areas, supplying household goods and clothing, and helping to rebuild victims' homes. Including local civic groups early in the coordination process will allow them to make the greatest contribution possible to meeting emergency needs. Community civic groups can also participate in wildfire protection planning and in some cases have provided volunteers needed for restoration work following wildfires.

Hospitals: Hospitals' disaster plans may be an integral part of county disaster plans, and hospitals respond to County Disaster and Emergency Services needs as requested during a disaster, including wildfires. Given the duration of some wildfire events and the associated dense smoke that settles in valleys for days or weeks at a time, local medical facilities may be quite active in responding to respiratory problems as well as the emotional and mental struggles that can be triggered by stress.

Media: Local media can help educate their community about wildfire ecology, risks, and needs and opportunities for planning, hazard mitigation, and preparedness efforts before wildfire strikes. Local media play an important role in communicating about fire status, emergency measures, and suppression efforts during an incident, and about recovery efforts during and following an incident.

Public Health Department: City/county public health departments can provide a number of services of benefit to communities and individuals during and after wildfires. Public health nurses can help individuals with health concerns related to fires, provide referrals, and help individuals access other needed services, including mental health services. Public health departments may also have responsibilities such as monitoring air quality, and issue air quality alerts and offer advice on protective measures as needed during wildfires.

Public Works: County public works departments generally have a variety of responsibilities, which may include road and bridge construction and maintenance, engineering and surveying, and water and wastewater facilities. During wildfires, public works departments may be involved in tasks such as providing signage to indicate road closures and providing emergency road repair. After wildfires, public works departments carry out repair and reconstruction of public roads and bridges as needed; assessment and replacement of culverts and additions to water filtration systems may be required to handle added debris and water flows.

Schools: Schools have an obvious educational role; educational trunks containing information and materials for wildfire education have been developed and made available to teachers, and some teachers have integrated information about wildfires into their curriculum. During wildfires, schools can continue to play an educational role, and also may offer their facilities when needed for emergency shelters, fire crews, or other emergency-related use. Students have also helped gather resources needed by fire victims. After wildfires, some schools have taken part in restoration and recovery efforts, offering students an opportunity for hands-on learning and community service. A handful of schools in Idaho are participating in the Fuels for Schools program, converting to heating systems that use biomass from hazardous fuels treatment projects as a more economical way to heat their campuses.

Sheriff's Office: Prior to wildfires, the Sheriff's Office can participate in planning for wildfire protection and hazard mitigation, and contribute to community preparedness through means such as assessing resources available for wildfire response and conducting training for wildfire response.

During wildfires, the Sheriff's Office plays a key role in communicating information to the community, developing and implementing plans for evacuation areas and escape routes, establishing roadblocks as needed, and carrying out other measures as needed for public safety. Following a wildfire, the Sheriff's Office can continue its coordination with other agencies and organizations to help with restoration and recovery efforts, and continue to serve as a point of contact for the public to offer reassurance and information about resources available.

Social Service Organizations: Social service organizations include entities such as food banks, the Salvation Army, Senior Citizen Centers, and homeless shelters. During wildfires these organizations can help meet the emergency needs of wildfire victims, provide referral services, and coordinate with other agencies and organizations to help meet special needs that arise.

Volunteer Fire Departments: In addition to their obvious role in fire suppression, volunteer fire departments can play important roles before wildfire strikes. Local fire departments have participated in community risk assessment and wildfire protection planning, trained their firefighters to combat wildfires in the wildland-urban interface, helped assess existing access and access needs, and helped carry out hazardous fuels treatment programs.

American Red Cross: The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho responds to all types of disasters in the state including those related to fire. The Red Cross focuses on the immediate needs of individuals including shelter, food, health and mental health services to address basic human needs.

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